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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Military: Mistake to Wait on Iraq Troop Deployment -
Hurriyet
If Summit Gives a Yes, Turkish Military Ready for Iraq -
Sabah
Turkey Waits for Washington's Response on Troop Deployment -
Turkiye
Americans Met with PKK, Asked Them to Lay Down Weapons -
Milliyet
Double Blow Against Uzan Family-Sabah
82 Uzan Companies Under Police Investigation - Hurriyet
Huge Investigation Against Uzan Family - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Summit an Effort to Convince President Sezer - Radikal
Decision Day at the Presidential Palace - Cumhuriyet
Summit to Convince Sezer to Approve Troop Deployment in Iraq
- Zaman
BDDK (Banking Supervisory Board) Ignored Fraud in Imar Bank
- Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Iraq Summit at the Presidential Palace: All papers report on the critical summit meeting to be held at the Presidential Palace this afternoon. President Sezer, PM Erdogan, FM Gul, and TGS Chief Gen.Ozkok will attend the meeting. "Zaman" notes that Defense Min. Gonul, Intelligence Undersecretary Atasagun, and Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Ziyal are also expected to join. Government officials hope the military will be able to convince President Sezer on the necessity of a Turkish troop deployment in Iraq. "Sabah" columnist Muharrem Sarikaya notes that unlike the situation before the Iraq war, the government and the military now agree on the necessity of a Turkish deployment in order to protect Turkey's national interests. President Sezer has so far insisted on a UN or NATO decision for troop deployment. "Cumhuriyet" notes that the President might choose to await the outcome of the UN Security Council meeting on August 21. Turkey's National Security Council (NSC) will discuss the issue at its next meeting on August 22.

US Officials Meet with the PKK: "Milliyet" reports in a banner headline that US military officials met with leaders of the PKK/KADEK in Northern Iraq for the second time last week. The first meeting reportedly took place in June. US military officials from Erbil and Suleymaniye, protected by KDP peshmerge, went to the mountainous region in a five-car convoy protected from the air by two helicopters. US officials reportedly tried to convince the PKK militants to lay down their weapons and encouraged them to get involved in political activities and media efforts in Iraq. The PKK refused to lay down its weapons 'for now' because of the turmoil and uncertainty in Iraq. However, they did not reject the US proposal in its entirety, and requested that the talks be continued.

Investigation Against Uzan Group Companies: Today's papers give extensive coverage to reports that 82 Uzan group companies, including the family's media outlets, were raided yesterday in various police actions around the country. Many documents, including accounting records, were seized by the police. "Milliyet" reports that the operation was carried out in line with the ongoing investigation of money laundering charges. "Sabah" notes a second blow against the Uzans yesterday when President Sezer approved the banking law, which will hold bank owners and bank officials personally responsible for bank fraud and irregularities.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq

"The Divine Mission of Bush"
Ibrahim Karagul argued in the Islamist-intellectual Yeni Safak (8/12): "At this point there is no sense in arguing about the justifications used by the United States for the Iraq operation. There is a game being staged right now, and we are just spectators or, at most, playing a supporting role. The Washington administration looks like a racist junta, and there is a plan underway to redesign the world. .. The ultimate goal of the US is to establish a world empire. We all sit and watch the seizure of world resources and the suppression of alternative voices. Turkey's decision on whether or not to send troops to Iraq requires a larger vision to see the full picture. This decision should not be evaluated only within the framework of Turkish-American relations and economic expectations. This is not about our short-term interests. This is about whether or not we bless the occupation and looting, whether or not we obey a power that intends to rule the world."

"Not without an Arab presence"
Erhan Basyurt wrote in the Islamist-intellectual Zaman (8/12): "Turkey has some questions on the issue of sending troops to Iraq, such as the legitimacy of the US presence and the US position as an occupation force. . The United States, on the other hand, has failed to win over the people of Iraq after the operation. The democratization process seems to be alienating some important local figures. The Iraqi Governing Council consists predominantly of names from the opposition who lived abroad. The IGC is also alienating the Sunni Arabs, another major reason for the unhappiness among the Iraqi people. .Turkey should condition its military presence in Iraq on the agreement of at least one other Islamic country to send troops as well. The military presence of an Arab country, preferably Egypt, is the best solution that will not only enhance Turkey's position, but also eliminate the possibility that Turkey will be labeled as a collaborator with the occupation force."

DEUTSCH